Arrival/Departure time of Bombay-Delhi and Saurashtra Express

4724. SHRI S. N. VEKARIA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) the arrival and departure timings of Bombay-Delhi Rajdhani Express and Saurashtra Express from Baroda;

(b) whether the Government propose to change the timings of these trains to provide proper link service to the passengers of Rajkot and its adjoining areas coming from Bombay; and

(c) if so, when and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MALLIKARJUN): (a) 2951 Rajdhani Express arrives Vadodara at 21.30 hours and 9015 Saurashtra Express leaves Vadodara at 16.55 hours.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) 3 pairs of trains viz. 9015/9016 Saurashtra Express, 9017/9018 Saurashtra Janata Express and 9005/9006 Saurashtra Mail are already available between Bombay and Rajkot.

[English]

Second Broad-Gauge Terminal for Madras

4725. SHRI B.RAJA RAVI VARMA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to take up work on the development of a second broad-gauge terminal for Madras: and

(b) if so the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MALLIKARJUN): (a) and (b) Survey and land acquisition work for provision of second coaching terminal in Villivakkam-Annanagar-Keyambedu area has been taken up.

Villivakkam to Annanagar Railway Line

4726. SHRI B.RAJA RAVI VARMA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is any proposal to construct railway line from Villivakkam to Annanagar; and

(b) if so the details thereof and when it is likely to be implemented?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MALLIKARJUN) (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

[Translation]

Air Taxi Service for Ratnagiri

4727. SHRI GOVINDRAO NIKAM : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is any proposal to start air taxi service for Ratnagiri;

(b) if so, the time by which this service is likely to be started; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA): (a) to (c) Air Taxi Services are run by private operators and they can operate

to all the airports open to scheduled operations in the country There is no need for them to take the approval of the Government to operate any particular route.

[English]

Computerisation of Claims in Railways

4728. SHRI SHRAVAN KUMAR PATEL: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state the progress made in computerisation of claims on Northern, South Central, Western, Southern and North Eastern Railways, towards improved customers service during the last three years, year-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MALLIKARJUN): A Pilot Project to computerise Claims Processing System was taken up on North Eastern Railway in 1989. On successful implementation of this system in area of customers service, extension of this system to four more Railways, viz Northern, Eastern, South Central and Western Railways has been sanctioned in the Works Programme for 1991-92.

Augmentation of A. I/I. A. Fleet

4729. SHRI SHRAVAN KUMAR PATEL: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the aircraft proposed to be purchased for the Air India and the Indian Airlines, indicating their capatity, cost per aircraft and other salient features; and

(b) the decisions taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA): (a) and (b) Indian Airlines has signed a purchase agreement on 5-6-1989 for acquisition of twelve Airbus A. 320 aircraft (168 seater) at a cost of Rs. 958.78 crores with a foreign exchange component of US $ 633.121 million. The delivery is due in 1993 and 1994.

Air India has signed a purchase agreement for acquisition of four Boeing 747—400 aircraft (448 seater) at a cost of Rs. 1962.03 crores with a foreign exchange component of US Dollars 667.09 million, with deliveries due in 1993 and 1994.

[Translation]

Tourism Developmemt in Kanpur

4730. SHRI KESHRI LAL: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have received any proposal for financial assistance to develop Bithoor in Kanpur as a tourist centre; and

(b) if so, the details of facts thereof?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The Central Department of Tourism has sanctioned an amount of Rs. 11.39 lakhs for the construction of a Tourist Complex at Bithoor. An amount of Rs. 5.50 lakhs has already been released to the State Government.